

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for evaluating packets and frames in a wireless communication system having a burst oriented channel, and a corresponding rate indicator channel, the method comprising:
 - monitoring the rate indicator channel; [[and]]
 - determining the presence of a packet on the rate indicator channel based on a likelihood generated by a maximum likelihood decoder that decodes the rate indicator channel; and
 - analyzing the packet, if detected, to determine whether a frame is valid based on a comparison between a sub-packet identifier (ID) and payload size of the packet with a sub-packet ID and payload size of one or more previous packets.
- 2-6 (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49 wherein analyzing the packet further comprises
 - decoding information on the burst oriented data transmission channel using the packet if the sub-packet ID and payload are not expected.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim ~~[[48]]~~ 1 wherein analyzing the packet further comprises comparing the packet with an expected packet type if the packet is a zero-rate packet.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein analyzing the packet further comprises detecting energy on the burst oriented data channel if the packet matches the expected packet type.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[47]] 1 wherein further comprising:
determining the validity of [[a]] the frame further comprises detecting based upon a detection of energy on the burst oriented channel if there is no packet on the corresponding rate indicator channel and no packet was expected.
12. (Currently Amended) A system for evaluating packets and frames in a wireless communication system, comprising:
a base station; and
a mobile station coupled to the base station via a wireless communication link;
wherein the base station is configured to receive data from the mobile station on a plurality of reverse-link channels on the wireless communication link including a burst oriented channel, and a corresponding rate indicator channel; and
wherein the base station is configured to monitor the rate indicator channel, [[and]]
determine the presence of a packet on the rate indicator channel based on a likelihood generated by a maximum likelihood decoder that decodes the rate indicator channel and analyze the packet, if detected, to determine whether a frame is valid based on a comparison between a sub-packet identifier (ID) and payload size of the packet with a sub-packet ID and payload size of one or more previous packets.
- 13 – 17 (Canceled)
18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 55 wherein the base station is further configured to analyze the packet by decoding information on the burst oriented data transmission channel using the packet if the sub-packet ID and payload are expected.
19. (Canceled)
20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[54]] 12 wherein the base station is configured to analyze the packet by comparing the packet with an expected packet type if the packet is a zero-rate packet.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the base station is configured to analyze the packet by detecting energy on the burst oriented channel if the packet matches the expected packet type.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[53]] 12 wherein the base station is further configured to determine the validity of ~~[[a]] the~~ frame by detecting energy on the burst oriented channel if there is no packet on the corresponding rate indicator channel and no packet was expected.

23. (Currently Amended) A base station operable to communicate with a mobile station via a wireless communication channel, wherein the base station comprises:

a processing subsystem; and

a transceiver subsystem coupled to the processing subsystem;

wherein the transceiver subsystem is configured to receive signals on a plurality of reverse-link channels on the wireless communication link including a burst oriented channel, and a corresponding rate indicator channel; and

wherein the base station is configured to monitor the rate indicator channel, ~~[[and]]~~ determine the presence of a packet on the rate indicator channel based on a likelihood generated by a maximum likelihood decoder that decodes the rate indicator channel and analyze the packet, if detected, to determine whether a frame is valid based on a comparison between a sub-packet identifier (ID) and payload size of the packet with a sub-packet ID and payload size of one or more previous packets.

24 – 28 (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The base station of claim 60 wherein the base station is further configured to analyze the packet by decoding information on the burst oriented data transmission channel using the packet if the sub-packet ID and payload are expected.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) The base station of claim [[59]] 23 wherein the base station is configured to analyze the packet by comparing the packet with an expected packet type if the packet is a zero-rate packet.

32. (Original) The base station of claim 31 wherein the base station is configured to analyze the packet by detecting energy on the burst oriented channel if the packet matches the expected packet type.

33. (Currently Amended) The base station of claim [[58]] 23 wherein the base station is further configured to determine the validity of [[a]] the frame by detecting energy on the burst oriented channel if there is no packet on the corresponding rate indicator channel and no packet was expected.

34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus operable to communicate with a mobile station via a wireless communication channel, wherein the base station comprises:

means for monitoring the rate indicator channel; [[and]]

means for determining the presence of a packet on the rate indicator channel based on a likelihood generated by a maximum likelihood decoder that decodes the rate indicator channel;
and

means for analyzing the packet, if detected, to determine whether a frame is valid based on a comparison between a sub-packet identifier (ID) and payload size of the packet with a sub-packet ID and payload size of one or more previous packets.

35 – 38 (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium including program code stored thereon, which when executed by a processor is for evaluating packets and frames in a wireless communication system having a burst oriented channel, and a corresponding rate indicator channel, comprising:

logic configured to monitor the rate indicator channel; [[and]]

logic configured to determine the presence of a packet on the rate indicator channel based on a likelihood generated by a maximum likelihood decoder that decodes the rate indicator channel; and

logic configured to analyze the packet, if detected, to determine whether a frame is valid based on a comparison between a sub-packet identifier (ID) and payload size of the packet with a sub-packet ID and payload size of one or more previous packets.

40 – 44 (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the presence of a packet is performed at predetermined intervals.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the interval is a subframe interval.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[48]] 1, wherein analyzing the packet further comprises

determining if the packet is a zero-rate packet, and [[a]] analyzing the sub-packet ID and [[a]] the payload of the packet if the packet is not a zero-rate packet.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the packet does not include cyclical redundancy check (CRC) bits.

51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the presence of a packet is determined at predetermined intervals.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the interval is a subframe interval.
53. (Canceled)
54. (Canceled)
55. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[54]] 12, wherein the base station is configured to analyze the packet by determining if the packet is a zero-rate packet, and analyzing [[a]] the sub-packet ID and [[a]] the payload of the packet if the packet is not a zero-rate packet.
56. (Previously Presented) The base station of claim 23, wherein the presence of a packet is determined at predetermined intervals.
57. (Previously Presented) The base station of claim 56, wherein the interval is a subframe interval.
58. (Canceled)
59. (Canceled)
60. (Currently Amended) The base station of claim [[59]] 23, wherein the base station is configured to analyze the packet by determining if the packet is a zero-rate packet, and analyzing [[a]] the sub-packet ID and [[a]] the payload of the packet if the packet is not a zero-rate packet.
61. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the means for determining determines the presence of a packet at predetermined intervals.
62. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the interval is a subframe interval.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Canceled)

65. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[64]] 39, wherein the logic configured to determine determines the presence of a packet at predetermined intervals.

66. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 65, wherein the interval is a subframe interval.

67. (Canceled)

68. (Canceled)

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining the presence of the packet includes:
 comparing the likelihood with a threshold,
 wherein the determination as to whether the packet is present is based on the comparison.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining the presence of the packet includes:
 identifying a codeword that is most likely to be present on the rate indicator channel,
 wherein the likelihood corresponds to the likelihood that the most likely codeword is present on the rate indicator channel.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the rate indicator channel is a discontinuous transmission channel.